

August 21, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Detroit Free Press: Brian Dickerson: Debunking the myth of the nonpartisan judge

"This much is clear: If Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Henry Saad had publicly endorsed Mitt Romney or Pete Hoekstra in 2012, he'd be in deep doo-doo with the state's Judicial Tenure Commission. The Michigan Code of Judicial Conduct — a list of ethical dos and don'ts that governs the state's 600 or so judges, including Saad — specifically prohibits sitting judges from endorsing any candidate for non-judicial office. Violating the code can earn an offending judge penalties ranging from censure to expulsion from judicial office."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Bridge Magazine: Judge gives half his salary to GOP, says he's impartial

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: Nonpartisan judge? COA's Saad donates \$80K to GOP

[Full story](#)

SBM Blog: Are "Eye-Popping" Partisan Contributions By Sitting Judges A Problem?

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Judge: Activist Robert Davis' lawsuit may be allowed to continue if he doesn't seek Orr's removal

"... U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Steven Rhodes signaled he may allow Robert Davis to continue a lawsuit accusing state officials of violating the Open Meetings Act in the process of hiring Orr to run Detroit. But Rhodes said he may only allow it to proceed as long as Davis doesn't seek Orr's removal from office as an end result of the case."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

MLive.com: Detroit bankruptcy judge wants to lift stay of lawsuit challenging emergency manager appointment, but with conditions

[Full story](#)

Ann Arbor.com: Attorney charged with sexual assault is being investigated for 'other crimes'

"More details emerged in court Tuesday concerning Nader Nassif, the former Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority board member and 15th District Court defense attorney charged with sexual assault. Attorneys alluded that Nassif is still being investigated and that drugs were seized during the execution of three warrants on July 31, Aug. 1 and Aug. 2."

[Full story](#)

Flint Journal: Flint teen gets life in prison without parole in first-of-its kind juvenile sentencing hearing

"A Flint teen was ordered to spend the rest of his life in prison without the possibility of parole during a first-of-its-kind sentencing hearing following a U.S. Supreme Court decision banning mandatory life sentences without parole for juvenile offenders. Genesee Circuit Judge Archie Hayman issued the

sentence Tuesday, Aug. 20, for Juwan Wickware following two hearings that explored Wickware's mental status, criminal history and upbringing."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Legal News: Governor appoints Bandstra, others to seven-member state Board of Ethics

"In July, Governor Rick Snyder announced the appointment of Richard Bandstra, of Grand Rapids, and the reappointment of Thomas Phillips, of Okemos, to the state Board of Ethics.... Bandstra recently retired as chief legal counsel for Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette, a position he held since 2011. Previously, Bandstra served as a judge on the Michigan Third District Court of Appeals from 1994 until his retirement from the court in January 2011. He served as chief judge of the court from 1998 to 2001."

[Full story](#)

Jackson Citizen Patriot: Class action lawsuit filed against the city of Jackson for stormwater utility fee refunds

"The lawsuits keep piling up for the city of Jackson. Following a Michigan Court of Appeals ruling that canceled the city's controversial stormwater utility fee, Jackson resident Phillip Panzica filed a class action lawsuit against the city last week."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

WLNS-TV(6)/Lansing: Jackson Resident Files Lawsuit Hoping To Get Storm Water Money Back

[Full story](#)

WILX-TV(10)/Lansing: Jackson Facing Class Action Lawsuit for Stormwater Fee Refunds

[Full story](#)

Jackson Citizen Patriot: Jackson County Board of Commissioners passes employee firearm policy

"The Jackson County Board of Commissioners affirmed its support for the Second Amendment with the passing of a firearms policy for county employees. With a unanimous vote the board passed the policy Tuesday, Aug. 20, which allows county employees with a concealed weapons permit to carry a gun to work. It goes into effect Sept. 30.... In previous board discussions, some commissioners had concerns about restricted areas in the county where guns are not allowed, including the county courthouse."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

WLNS-TV(6)/Lansing: Jackson Co. Passes Policy Allowing Employees To Carry Guns To Work

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Court rejects changes to state workers' pensions

"Nearly 18,000 state employees don't have to contribute 4 percent of their pay to get full pension benefits in retirement because a Republican-backed law requiring the paycheck deductions is unconstitutional, the Michigan appeals court ruled."

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: UDM Law schedules annual Red Mass

"... The Red Mass is intended to be an occasion for judges, lawyers, civic leaders, and law students of all faiths to pray together at the beginning of the new judicial term, 'asking God to bless, strengthen, and enlighten so that in cooperation and mutual trust we may effectively achieve justice for all.' "

[Full story](#)

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Are juveniles too young to know right from wrong?

"Lawyers in Michigan are hoping a federal ruling will eventually change the way the state sentences juveniles in murder cases. A federal court judge recently ruled that inmates who received mandatory life sentences for offenses committed when they were juveniles should have an opportunity to be re-sentenced. Michigan has more than 350 juvenile lifers, the second-highest number in the country."

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: Planning ahead with the Michigan Supreme Court: October oral arguments scheduled

"How time flies. Three weeks after the MSC concluded its 2012-13 term, the clerk's office has released the court's oral argument schedule for October. Court will be held Oct. 8, 9 and 10 and convenes at 9:30 a.m. on the sixth floor of the Michigan Hall of Justice, 925 W. Ottawa, Lansing."

[Full story](#)

Muskegon Chronicle: Muskegon County set to hire Grand Rapids lawyer as lead public defender

"Muskegon County commissioners have tentatively voted to hire a Grand Rapids attorney, Frederick D. Johnson Jr., as the first director of the county's new Public Defender Department. Johnson's job is likely to focus on transitioning public defenders from contracted private lawyers to 'in-house' county employees, although commissioners haven't made a final decision on that issue. If adopted, it would make Muskegon County only the second county in Michigan to use such a system."

[Full story](#)